Claims

[c1]   A client system for efficiently downloading a page of broadband content including at least one content file, the client system comprising:

a mass storage device;

a bandwidth measurement device determining the bandwidth of a network connection over which a content file is downloaded;

a download manager retrieving and storing in the mass storage device a portion of the content file, the size of the portion of the content file responsive to the determination made by the bandwidth measurement device; and

a presentation manager retrieving the portion of the content file from mass storage and displaying the portion with a standard media player application, wherein the download manager downloads the remainder of the content file in response to the presentation manager displaying the portion of the second content file.

[c2]   The client system of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device comprises a redundant array of independent disks.

[c3] The client system of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device comprises a network storage solution.

[c4] The client system of claim 1 wherein the bandwidth measurement device comprises a timer.

[c5] The client system of claim 1 wherein the bandwidth measurement device and the download manager comprise a single process.

[c6] The client system of claim 1 wherein the download manager comprises a thread process.

[c7] The client system of claim 1 wherein the download manager comprises one of the group consisting of an ActiveX control and a JAVA applet.

[c8] The client system of claim 1 wherein the presentation manager comprises a threaded process.

[c9] The client system of claim 1 wherein the presentation manager comprises a Windows Media Player application.

[c10] A method for efficiently downloading a page of broadband content including at least one content file, the method comprising the steps of:
(a)retrieving a content file;
(b)terminating retrieval of the content file before the en-

tire content file is retrieved;

(c)storing the retrieved portion of the content file in a mass storage device;

(d)reading the portion of the content file from the mass storage device;

(e)displaying with a standard media player application the read portion of the content file; and

(f)retrieving, in response to step (e), the remainder of the content file.

[c11] The method of claim 10 wherein step (b) comprises:
(b-a)determining the bandwidth of a network connection over which the content file is retrieved; and
(b-b)terminating retrieval of the content file before the entire content file is retrieved, the termination responsive to the bandwidth determination made in step (b-a).

[c12] The method of claim 10 wherein step (a) comprises retrieving from a peer-to-peer network a content file.

[c13] The method of claim 10 wherein step (a) comprises retrieving from a multicast network a content file.

[c14] The method of claim 10 wherein step (f) comprises retrieving, in response to step (e), the remainder of the content file from a peer-to-peer network.

[c15] The method of claim 10 wherein step (f) comprises re-

trieving, in response to step (e), the remainder of the content file from a multicast network.

[c16] The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of displaying with a standard media player application the remainder of the content file.

[c17] The method of claim 10 wherein step (e) and step (f) occur substantially concurrently.

[c18] An article of manufacture having embodied thereon computer-readable program means for efficiently downloading a page of broadband content including a first content file and a second content file, the article of manufacture comprising:

computer-readable program means for retrieving a content file;

computer-readable program means for terminating retrieval of the content file before the entire content file is retrieved;

computer-readable program means for storing the retrieved portion of the content file in a mass storage device;

computer-readable program means for reading the portion of the content file from the mass storage device;

computer-readable program means for displaying with a standard media player application the read portion of the

content file; and

computer-readable program means for retrieving the re-
mainder of the content file.